

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5866
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0646

FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, CU
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S CONVERSATION WITH CUBAN DELEGATE TO
MAPUTO CONFERENCE

1. AT THEIR REQUEST, AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET QUIETLY DURING THE EVENING OF MAY 18 AT THE POLANA HOTEL WITH RAUL VALDEZ VIVO, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND HEAD OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION TO THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE, AND CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO MOZAMBIQUE, NAMCISO MARTIN MORA DIAZ. DON PETTERSON OF AF/S WAS ALSO PRESENT. THE CONVERSATION CENTERED ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE U.S. VALDEZ SAID CUBA VERY MUCH WANTED TO MOVE QUICKLY TOWARD NORMALIZATION AND WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE ATTITUDE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHICH WAS EXEMPLIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S VISIT TO HAVANA. HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE REAL PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION AS LONG AS THE TRADE EMBARGO REMAINS IN FORCE. IN THIS REGARD, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WAS PERPLEXED BY THE VOTE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS LAST WEEK AGAINST RELAXING THE EMBARGO.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SIN-
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CERELY DOES WANT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEM WITH THE EMBARGO. HE WENT ON THAT BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN TRAVELLING IN AFRICA SINCE MAY 9, HE IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT THE CONGRESS DID TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAD OCCURRED. HE SAID THAT AFTER HE RETURNED TO THE U.S. HE WOULD OBTAIN AN ANALYSIS OF THEN CONGRESSIONAL VOTE AND, IF VALDEZ WISHED, HE WOULD PASS IT ON TO

THE CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. VALDEZ RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT. (FOR IO/UNA AMBASSADOR YOUNG REQUESTS THAT CONNIE GRICE LOOK INTO THIS MATTER AND PREPARE ANALYSIS.)

3. CONVERSATION ALSO TOUCHED ON CUBA'S ROLE IN AFRICA. VALDEZ MAINTAINED THAT CUBA HAD NO INTENTION OF SENDING LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS ANYWHERE ELSE ON THE CONTINENT (HE ADDED THAT CUBA WOULD NOT SEND ITS SOLDIERS TO ANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY). HOWEVER, CUBA RESERVED THE RIGHT, AS A SOVEREIGN NATION, TO EMPLOY ITS MILITARY FORCES ABROAD IF IT WISHED TO DO SO IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS. VALDEZ SAID THAT CUBA HAS AS MUCH RIGHT TO DO THIS AS THE U.S. HE STATED THAT THE TROUBLE BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA WAS A PROBLEM, BUT NOT NEARLY AS SERIOUS AS THE POTENTIAL TROUBLE IN THE HORN. THE SOURCE OF THE LATTER, HE ARGUED, WAS THE "ADVENTURISM" OF EGYPT AND SUDAN AGAINST MENGISTU.

4. VALDEZ THANKED YOUNG FOR MEETING WITH HIM AND AMBASSADOR MARTIN MORA, AND REPEATED HAT CUBA STRONGLY FAVORS RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

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